

T/Chief Constable
T/Chief Constable Darren Martland
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



11th August 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 744/25 Wildlife Crime

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 20th July 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide the following data held by your force for the period from 1 January 2022 to the present (or the most recent available date):

- 1a) The total number of stop and search incidents where the object of the search included offensive weapons.*
- 1b) The total number of stop and search incidents where the object of the search included offensive weapons and there was a suspected or alleged link to wildlife crime.*
- 2. Of the incidents involving wildlife crime recorded on police intelligence recording systems in addition to crime recording systems, how many involved the possession, suspected possession, or use of catapults?*
- 3. For the searches described in point 2, please provide a breakdown of:
The outcome of each search (e.g. no further action, arrest, charge, summons, caution).
The number of subjects aged: 1.) Under 11 years old 2.) Between 11-18 years old.
Whether there were any suspected links to other forms of antisocial behaviour.
The specific offences alleged or identified (e.g. poaching, hunting with dogs, criminal damage to wildlife, etc.).*
- 4. If available, please provide any guidance, policy, or briefing documents used by your force regarding stop and search in the context of wildlife crime or catapult-related offences.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case I have today decided to disclose this to you.

For this request, data was extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system. For question one, Object to Search was filtered to offensive weapons. For question two, the filter was the same and Power to Search included the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Question 1a.

The total number of stop and search incidents where the object of the search included offensive weapons.

Year	Distinct Count of Stop Search URN
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2022	466
2023	849
2024	930
2025	497
Grand Total	2742

Question 1b.

There were no searches recorded where the object of the search included offensive weapons under any power relating to wildlife crime.

Question 2/3.

There were no searches relating to wildlife crime that mentioned catapults.

Question 4.

Cumbria Constabulary do not have a specific policy in relation to Stop and Search for Wildlife Crime offences. We have an overarching Use of Force and Stop Search Policy and Procedure which makes reference to Wildlife Crime only in that it requires officers to select the reason for the search.

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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